



Historical Society of Long Beach
4260 Atlantic Ave., Long Beach, CA 90807 www.hslb.org

LONG BEACH REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY COLLECTION, 1961-2012

Finding aid prepared by Tristan Willenburg and Julie Bartolotto. The processing of this collection and creation of this finding aid were made possible by generous support from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association.

Historical Society of Long Beach
4260 Atlantic Ave.
Long Beach, California 90807
Phone: (562) 424-2220
URL: <http://www.hslb.org>
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Descriptive Summary

Title:

Long Beach Redevelopment Agency Collection, 1961-2012

Dates:

1961-2012

Collection Number:

2017.029

Creator:

City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency

Extent:

Approximately 102 linear ft., 126 boxes + 4 drawers of oversized materials.

Repository:

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Language:

Collection materials are in English.

Administration Information Access

There are no access restrictions on this collection.

Abstract:

The collection documents work of the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (LBRDA) to promote economic renewal in local neighborhoods. The Agency was formed in 1961 and dissolved by state law in 2012. The collection includes approximately 23,700 35mm slides as well as many photographic prints, negatives, digital files, oversized aerial photographs, maps, and documents. These items show neighborhoods both before and after the completion of LBRDA projects. They portray changes in Downtown Long Beach, West Beach, Central Long Beach, the Poly High Neighborhood, North Long Beach, Bixby Knolls, Los Altos, the Westside, and in other parts of the city.

Publishing Rights

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of Item], Long Beach Redevelopment Agency Collection, Historical Society of Long Beach, Long Beach, California.

Acquisition Information

The collection was donated to the Historical Society of Long Beach in 2015 and 2017 after LBRDA was dissolved in 2012 pursuant to California State Legislation AB 1X 26.

Processing Information

The slides arrived in 75 three-ring binders, with the other items arriving with less organization. Once at the Historical Society of Long Beach, the materials were sorted and rehoused in acid free folders and boxes. Rehousing and cataloging of the collection was done by HSLB staff members Brandon Werts, Tristan Willenburg, Brian Chavez, Julie Bartolotto, and Yolanda Villegas, by volunteers Erin Perkins, Jade Cortez, and by Leadership Long Beach. This finding aid was prepared by Tristan Willenburg with assistance from Julie Bartolotto in 2019.

The processing of this collection and creation of this finding aid were made possible by generous support from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association.

Biography

The Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (LBRDA) was established in 1961 to promote economic renewal in local neighborhoods. Its work changed city streetscapes by altering various residential areas and commercial corridors.

The City of Long Beach's first focus of Redevelopment was the "Jungle," an area of small apartments and motels built around 1900 along the beach, west of Downtown. Subsequent LBRDA projects included Downtown Long Beach, Long Beach Boulevard, Pine Avenue, Atlantic Avenue, the Westside, Central Long Beach, the Poly High School neighborhood, Los Altos, Bixby Knolls, North Long Beach, and "brownfields project" areas with industrial or petroleum pollution, among others. In short, the LBRDA's work affected many areas of the City.

LBRDA was dissolved in 2012 through legislation by the State of California. At that time, it controlled 40% of the City's land, and millions of property tax dollars.

Scope and Content

The Long Beach Redevelopment Agency Collection documents the activities of the LBRDA in the City of Long Beach from the years 1961 through 2012. The materials include photographs, 35mm slides, documents, maps, compact disks, and video tapes. Areas of the city of Long Beach represented in the collection include Downtown Long Beach, Central Long Beach, the Poly High neighborhood, the Westside, North Long Beach, Los Altos, Bixby Knolls, and others.

Series 1 contains 35mm slides showing photographs of LBRDA projects. Many were taken by professional photographers such as Kayte Deiyoma. Others were taken by City staff members such as David Inocencio and City Photographer Andy Witherspoon. They are divided by location or project area. During processing, HSLB staff attempted to preserve LBRDA organization. In situations where slides were out of order, the group was very large, or the subjects of the photographs warranted it, the slides were reorganized to increase their utility to researchers. It should also be noted that some of the dates of the slide groupings are approximations, based on the slides in each group.

Series 2 contains aerial photographs, maps, mounted items, and other oversize materials. These materials, which are organized by object types and projects, relate to LBRDA projects in Downtown Long Beach, Long Beach Boulevard, Atlantic Boulevard, King Park, the Westside, Los Altos, Central Long Beach, and North Long Beach, and some smaller areas.

Series 3 contains digital media, specifically videotapes and compact disks, which contain a variety of documents, images, studies, financial reports, promotional materials, and other information.

Series 4 contains photographic prints, including some smaller versions of the aerials in Series 2. The photographs were rehoused and sorted according to project area.

Series 5 contains various documents, reports, and promotional magazines.

Arrangement

The RDA Collection is arranged in five series. If more materials relevant to this collection are either donated to the Historical Society of Long Beach or found in HSLB's archival collections, these series may continue to be modified.

Series 1: Slides

20 Boxes, each containing 6 sub boxes

Series 2: Oversized Materials

4 Drawers + 1 Box

Series 3: Media

1 Box

Series 4: Photographs

2 Boxes

Series 5: Documents/Reports/Magazines

2 Boxes

Indexing Terms

Subjects

Aerial photographs
Aerial views
Blight
Buildings, structures
City of Long Beach
City planning
Construction
Demolition
Development
Harbor
Housing
Maps
Neighborhoods
Photography
Redevelopment, Urban
35mm Slides
Slides
Streets
Transparency, Slide
Los Angeles River
Port of Long Beach
Urban blight
Urban planning

Personal Names (Photographers)

Baxter, Elmar
Carroll, Donna
Deioma, Kayte
Grimm, Michele
Grimm, Tom
Inocencio, David
Metiver, George
Morris, Jim
Mortimer, Arthur M.
Owens, Peg
Robinson, John
Siegel, Minette
Westervelt, Julie
Witherspoon, Andy

Government Names

City of Long Beach
Long Beach Redevelopment Agency (Long Beach, Calif.)

Geographic Areas

Belmont Shore (Long Beach, Calif.)

Bixby Knolls (Long Beach, Calif.)

California

Central Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

Downtown Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

Long Beach Harbor (Calif.)

Long Beach (Calif.)

Los Altos (Long Beach, Calif.)

Marina (Long Beach, Calif.)

Naples (Long Beach, Calif.)

North Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

Poly High School Neighborhood (Long Beach, Calif.)

Southeast Area Development and Improvement Plan (Long Beach, Calif.)

Southern California

Waterfront (Long Beach, Calif.)

West Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

West Long Beach (Long Beach, Calif.)

West Long Beach Industrial (Long Beach, Calif.)

Westside (Long Beach, Calif.)